

“I am pleased that Valley agricultural producers will have the opportunity to add their input to the upcoming farm bill,” said Costa. “Listening firsthand to our farmers, ranchers, and dairymen is critical to strengthening our agricultural policy.”

The hearing is one of several field hearings the Agriculture Committee is hosting around the country, and is part of an ongoing effort to hear from farmers, ranchers, and industry leaders as the committee prepares to draft the next comprehensive Farm Bill, the set of laws, regulations and programs which provide the overall framework for the system of U.S. agriculture.

The hearing is open to the public. Live video of the hearing will be available on the House Agriculture Committee website (<http://agriculture.house.gov/hearings/audio.html>) for those who can't attend in person.

The Committee will also provide the opportunity for local farmers and ranchers to submit comments in writing to ensure that interested individuals have the opportunity to be heard and influence the development of the next farm bill. Details for written submission will be distributed after the hearing.

Witness List

Panel I

Mr. Jamie Bledsoe, dairy producer, Riverdale, California
Mr. Tony Campos, almond producer, sheller and shipper, Caruthers, California
Mr. John Diener, almond, grape, wheat, alfalfa, sugarbeet, tomato and spinach producer, Five Points, California
Mr. Kevin Kester, cattle and grape producer, Parkfield, California
Mr. Jon Reelhorn, nursery plant producer, wholesaler, and retailer, Fresno, California
Mr. Frank Rehmann, rice producer, Live Oak, California

Panel II

Mr. David Roberts, orange, lemon and grapefruit producer, Visalia, California
Mr. Jamie Strachan, vegetable producer and shipper, Salinas, California
Mr. John Teixeira, organic tomato, eggplant, bell pepper, melon and corn producer, Firebaugh, California
Mr. Paul Van Konyneburg, peach, apple, cherry, apricot, almond, and walnut producer, Modesto, California
Mr. Justin Parnagian, peach, nectarine, plum, grape, apricot, and citrus producer, packer and shipper, Fresno, California

More Information

WHO: Chairman Collin Peterson, Congressmen Costa and Cardoza, and other Members of the House Agriculture Committee

WHAT: Field Hearing to Review U.S. Agriculture Policy in Advance of the 2012 Farm Bill

WHEN: Monday, May 3rd, 9:00 a.m. PDT

WHERE: Fresno City Hall Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, 2600 Fresno St., Fresno, CA

